

day, try another boat trip to Princess Island or make your way to Dolmabahce Palace and the Naval Museum right next door (it has the most gorgeous furniture you wouldn't believe).

Travel tips

Once in Istanbul, you can get around on their Tram system.

It's a train that runs on electric cables and costs about 50 cents to ride.

Unless you've read up on the sites you're seeing, joining a tour group is not a bad idea. Most hotels or travel agencies can arrange them.

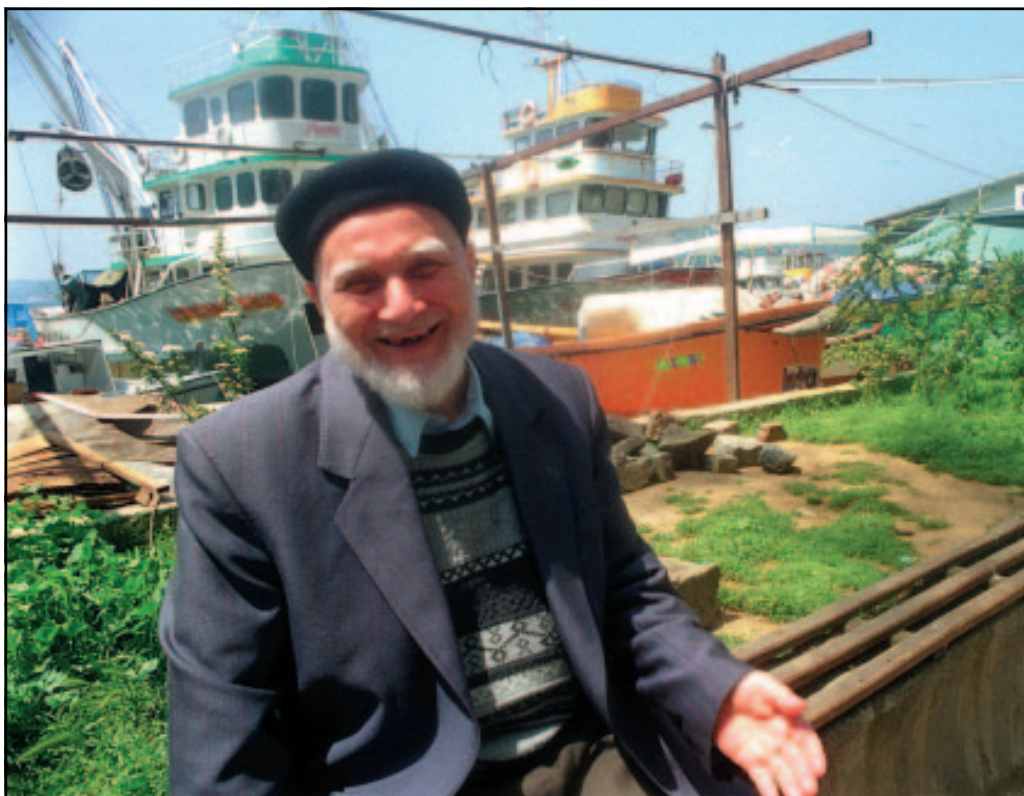
Traveling by yourself is risky—especially in a city of 11 million people. Team up with a friend for a more hassle-free visit.

Even two women traveling together will get around with no problem, unless one of them is blonde—she'll get Turkish soldiers wanting to get their picture taken with her.

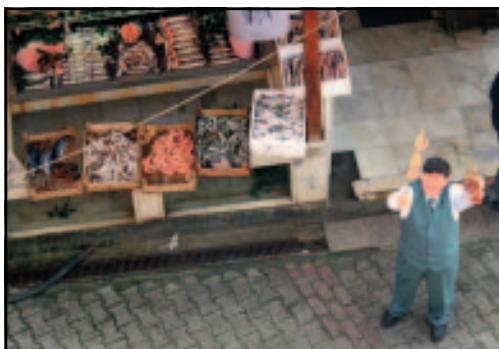
Remember to actually put film in your camera.

For the serious photographer, a tripod is a must for the gorgeous evening shots. However, make sure it's lightweight or you'll spend more time resting your arm than taking pictures.

You can forgo a tripod if there's a



A fisherman in a village near the Black Sea sends a warm hello.



Merchants are very aggressive at getting you to eat in their restaurant. Don't be shy about shopping around to find the best price.



Tourists can feed the pigeons near the Egyptian Spice Bazaar.



Susan Zabelin, 628th Air Mobility Support Squadron, checks out the menu at a hip restaurant in the province of Taksim.



An afternoon along the Golden Horn with Topkapi Palace in the background.

bridge you can rest the camera on. It's awkward, but doable.

If you like tarter or cocktail sauce with your fish and shrimp ... bring them yourself.

Take plenty of small change (and tissue) for bathrooms. Tuvalets cost about 50 cents.

When traveling, plan one hour ahead.

You'll be amazed at the amount of traffic congestion—even at midnight!

If you pray, it's a good idea to gather for a prayer meeting before venturing out into traffic or brush up on the 23rd Psalms, "The Lord is My Shepherd."

Forget the rule about talking to strangers. It's impossible.

When a merchant tells you a ceramic plate is \$85, start bidding at \$10.

You may want to ask your taxi driver if he's good at ambulance chasing, because if you're in a hurry, that's the only way to get through traffic.

Ladies, unless you remember to bring a 220v hair curler, a hat or scarf works wonders for those bad hair days.

It's windy in Istanbul, so whatever's on your head, tie it down tight.

And finally, remember, **bring a jacket or shawl**. It's about 20 degrees cooler there.



To:

*Family & Friends
123 Hodja Lane
Anytown, U.S.A.*

*Turkey's great!
I've seen so many
interesting places.
The country is beautiful,
and the people are so
friendly. You would be
amazed at the things
you can see and do here.
I hope you enjoy the
photos I'm sending! Wish
you were here.*

Tip of the Sword

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